

The Kentucky Laboratory Sentinel

September 2004

National Preparedness Month

September has been named National Preparedness Month by the Department of Homeland Security. Secretary Tom Ridge encourages people to spread the word to neighbors and friends to get a Ready Kit, make a family communication plan, and be informed. To defend the homeland, we must start by defending the hometown. And we defend the hometown with a commitment to vigilance and preparedness. The more prepared communities are, the more prepared and secure the nation is.*

These words hold true for everything we do in laboratory preparedness. Be familiar with the proto-

cols, know what the bioterrorism organisms look like, and know what your hospital and laboratory procedures are if you are in an event.

Here in Kentucky, at the ceremonies to kick off National Preparedness Month, Director of KY Homeland Security Erwin Roberts said "Kentucky's residents are safer today than they were before 9/11 because they

are taking their responsibility to be prepared seriously."

Thank you for being serious in the plight we have to identify any unfamiliar organisms that could

possibly be a danger to us all.

If you would like more information on Ready Kits, or how to personally prepare for disasters, visit

www.ready.gov



A First Aid Kit is an essential part of your Ready Kit. Watch expiry dates and replenish supplies as needed.

* Excerpted from Ready.gov

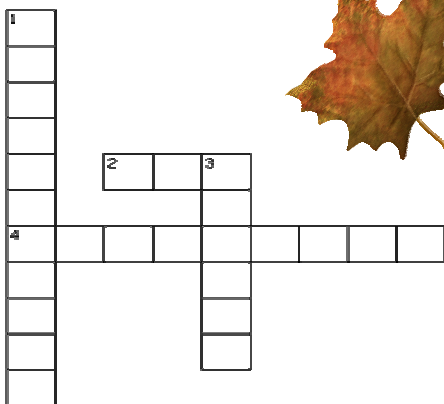


The road trip is almost over. We are finishing our Sentinel Site visits in October. If you know of any laboratory that would like to fall into the pile with us, please contact us.

We have enjoyed meeting all of the dedicated laboratory personnel in Kentucky.

On October 6th at 10:45am, CPT John Schmitt will have the 41st CST mobile lab, at Sower Boulevard. You are welcome to join us for a tour and information on what technology is deployed into the field.

Ideas or comments for future communications, email leighann.bates@ky.gov



Across

2. Equipment to keep employees safe

4. A cause of lab accidents

Down

1. One of the most important procedures for a laboratorian

3. This is not permitted in the lab

Could It Happen To YOU?

Surprise, Surprise, Surprise! It happened to us. No it wasn't a birthday party but on September 8th right here at the Kentucky State Public Health Lab we received a visit from DOT. They had randomly drawn our name out of Shipper's Declarations and wanted to see all the required training paperwork on the individual that had signed the paperwork.

Were we prepared? YES

Are you prepared? ?

Make sure if you ship infectious materials, you have documented training on each individual and make sure as the employer, you have signed their training document.

It was a little scary on September 8th but if you are PREPARED no expensive surprises will come your way.